

South & East Leicestershire Area United Reformed Churches



**SAFFRON LANE, WIGSTON MAGNA, SOUTH WIGSTON,
OADBY, WHETSTONE, ABBOTS ROAD**

<http://selaunc.org.uk>

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Dear Friends,

I don't need to tell you that each time we read or hear the news it all seems bad. There are many troubled places and desperate situations in the world: war in the Middle East, starvation in Gaza due to the attacks by Israel and relief vehicles not being able to get to where food and supplies are desperately needed. Then there's the war between Russia and Ukraine and the conflict still going on in Yemen, again causing people to starve from lack of Aid getting through, war in Ethiopia, floods in Texas. And that's without mentioning the bad news in our own country, violence on our streets, homelessness, etc. These things are very real and we can't help be moved with compassion and we mustn't ignore them; we need to pray and act in any way we can to bring hope. Some people say they've stopped watching the news because it's too depressing - too much bad news and very little reason for hope. There are those who question their faith, God gets the blame. Why God, where are you in all of this? Little children are dying, people are starving, living in poverty, why don't you do something to help?! Why don't things seem to change. What have we got to hope for? If we feel there is no hope, we need to remind ourselves that our hope is in Christ our Saviour who died in agony on the cross for us. When it seemed like evil and darkness had won Christ rose from the dead. God was and still is at work in our world and our lives. Even though our faith may be weakened, we need to hold on to our God of hope.

When it comes to the URC and other denominations, the news is not good either. Churches are closing, congregations are fewer in number, it's difficult to get people to take on roles like Elder, Church Secretary, Treasurer, or even to help at a coffee morning. But it's not all doom and gloom, in the Moderator's address at General Assembly, he said he is much more confident now than when he started as Moderator. He stated that there is growth. If we want to encourage people to come in to our churches, we need to be a bit saltier, take risks, move with the times.

I read that the Bible Society have published the results of a survey conducted by YouGov, which states that church decline in England and Wales has stopped, the church is growing. Church attendance has grown by 50 per cent over the last six years. The most dramatic church growth being among young adults, particularly young men.

God has not finished with us yet! The church will go on, perhaps not in the traditional form but in a new and different and exciting way. 'God is at work in us his wonders to perform.' There is life and future for the church. May the Holy Spirit guide and enthuse us to follow the way that God is leading us.

Yours in the never-ending love of Christ.

Pam

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

Whetstone URC	10.00 am
Oadby URC	10.15 am
South Wigston URC	10.30 am
Wigston Magna	10.30 am
Saffron Lane	11.00 am
Abbots Road	10.45 am

Please check with the relevant Church Secretaries to confirm when services are taking place at any of the Area Churches.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 25 MAGAZINE

Sunday 18 August 2025

Send your items to your church representative or direct to
di.statham@btinternet.com

If you do not have a computer a hand written copy can be accepted.
Contact Di Statham 0116 296 2847 for information

Worship Leaders for August 2025

Oadby	3	Eileen Williams - Communion
	10	Revd Jacquie Gavin
	17	Revd Ivor Smith - Communion
	24	Revd Ivor Smith
	31	Revd David Howlett
Saffron Lane	3	Revd Les Gill
	10	Eileen Williams
	17	Geoff Milnes
	24	Revd Martin Ferris
	31	R Benham
South Wigston	3	Café Style Service - led by Di Statham
	10	Revd David Howlett
	17	David Miller
	24	Marin Bartholomew
	31	Service at Cross Street Methodist Church
Wigston Magna	3	Julie Slatford
	10	Ray Green
	17	Revd David Howlett - Communion
	24	Revd Pam Smith
	31	David Todd
Whetstone	3	Revd David Howlett - Communion
	10	Kevin West
	17	Revd Les Gill
	24	Julie Slatford
	31	Revd Martin Ferris
Abbots Road	3	Revd Pam Smith
	10	To Be Confirmed
	17	Revd Pam Smith
	24	The Elders
	31	Revd Ivor Smith

Regular Church Events

Oadby URC

Weekly Coffee Morning
Every Monday from 10.00 - 12.00 -
including Bank Holidays

11 O'Clock Club
1st & 3rd Thursday 10.30 am for 11.00 start

Ladies Group
4th Thursday 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Craft Group
4th Saturday 11.00 am - at 25 Chestnut Ave, Oadby

Whetstone URC

Community Coffee Morning Thursday 10.00 to 12.00

Saffron Lane URC

Weekly 3T's (Tea, Toast & Talk) Thursday 10.00 to 12.00

Wigston Magna

Community Cinema
Alternate Months from February - 1.30 pm

Sit Sip and Social
2nd Wednesday of each month 2pm - 4 pm

Coffee Morning
Every Saturday 10.00 am to 12.00 pm

South Wigston

Drop In with coffee / tea. 4th Wednesday of each month

Abbots Road

Lunchbox every Tuesday from 12.30pm - 3 course meal
£5.00

Quiz Thursday evenings from 7.15pm (on Zoom)

Thursday Stay and Play and Little Borrowers toy library.
For children aged 0-4 years old and their parents/carers
10.00 to 11.30 £1.50 per family

Saturday Coffee Morning including a raffle, on Zoom
from 10.30am. Raising funds for our chosen charity RNIB

Bible Bytes

Wednesday 6 August 2025

10.30 am

Saffron Lane URC

Come and enjoy a light and friendly discussion

No Need to be a " Bible Expert"

EVERYBODY welcome



South and East Leicestershire Area

PICNIC IN THE GARDEN

Sunday 10 August 2025

Whetstone URC

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Bring YOUR OWN Picnic and join us



Congratulations

Julie and Tony

On Your

RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

11 August 2025



Community Cinema

PADDINGTON IN PERU

When Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt has gone missing from the home for retired bears he and the Brown family head to the jungles of Peru to find her. Determined to solve the mystery they soon stumble across a legendary treasure as they make their way through the rainforests of the Amazon.

Starring Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent and Imelda Staunton

Showing At

Long Street United Reformed Church

Monday 4 August 2025

Starting at 1.30 pm

Doors Open 12.45 pm for light refreshments

For More Information Contact

Julie 07544981674

RECIPE: August - Tangy Potato Salad - Serves 6.

750gr small new potatoes (larger ones halved)

3 shallots, finely diced

75gr gherkins, thinly sliced, plus 2 tablespoons of juice from the jar

200gr fat-free natural yogurt

Juice of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon

1 teaspoon caraway seeds

2 celery sticks, thinly sliced

4 spring onions, thinly sliced

Cress for decoration (optional)

- 1 Boil the potatoes for 10 - 12 minutes until tender. Drain well and leave to cool.
- 2 Mix together the shallots, gherkins, pickle juice, yogurt, lemon juice and caraway seeds in a large bowl.
- 3 When the potatoes are completely cool, add to the yogurt mixture with the celery and spring onions, and season to taste.
- 4 Gently mix so as not to break up the potatoes.
- 5 Chill, then, if using, snip the cress over the top just before serving.



GARDENING NOTES: August

- 1 Put out a supply of water for thirsty birds and insects.
- 2 Pick fruit and vegetables for storage, freezing or preserving.
- 3 Trim shrubs and evergreens into shape.
- 4 Pull out any thistles or other weeds by hand, or use a selective weedkiller.
- 5 Remove any dead, diseased or damaged branches of fruit trees.
- 6 Re-trim cut hedges if necessary.



DIARY: August

Wednesday 13th - Elders' meeting 10.00am.

Thought for the Month.

Any sufficiently advanced technology
is indistinguishable from magic!

Arthur C Clarke

South Wigston News

PRAYER LIST: AUGUST

Please pray for:

- 1 All those living in war-torn countries.
- 2 All refugees, especially those trying to get to a place of safety.
- 3 All who preach the Word of God in our churches today.
- 4 Those who are going on holiday this month, that they remain safe.
- 5 All who are bereaved.
- 6 On the anniversary of Hiroshima, pray for peace in our world.
- 7 Those who represent us on our local councils.
- 8 All who are sick, and those who care for them.
- 9 Tolerance and understanding between nations, races and faiths.
- 10 All who read the Word of God in our churches today.
- 11 All who are living in violent situations, especially the children.
- 12 Give thanks for the infinite variety in people.
- 13 Gardeners, who work to make our localities look beautiful.
- 14 Young people awaiting important exam results.
- 15 All who live in poverty.
- 16 Christian people who worship in places where faith is dangerous.
- 17 Those who wish to go to Church but are not able, due to age or infirmity.
- 18 Young people getting their exam results, especially those who did not do as well as hoped, and now have to decide what to do next.
- 19 The homeless.
- 20 Lifeguards, in this busy holiday season.
- 21 Give thanks for the glory of Summer.
- 22 All who are starting or returning to school or college this week.
- 23 All new babies born during this month, and their parents.
- 24 Our friends in the other churches in our localities.
- 25 All who are looking for jobs.
- 26 LOROS and other hospices facing financial difficulties
- 27 All who work for the Community of Grace.
- 28 Give thanks for the companionship of animals.
- 29 Our country, and those in our Government.
- 30 Give thanks that we can worship in safety.
- 31 Our Ministry team, Martin and Eileen as they plan for the months ahead.

Saffron Lane News

Preachers and Readers list for August -Sept 2025

	OT	NT	SER	COL	Preacher	
Aug 3 rd	36	6	3	13	L Gill	Communion
Aug 10 th	8	7	8	13	E Williams	Communion
Aug 17 th	12	30	12	13	G Milnes	Communion
Aug 24 th	3	9	#	13	M Ferris	Family service
Aug 31 st	5	14	#	13	R Benham	5 th Sunday
Sept 7 th	6	36	3	13	P Smith	Communion
Sept 14 th	7	8	7	13	J Slatford	Communion
Sept 21 st	12	30	12	13	D Howlett	Communion
Sept 28 th	9	3	#	13	R Benham	Family Service

3.Kath T	8. Brian S	12 Elizabeth R	36 Dec B
5.Sue B	9. Terri D	13.Darren C	# No server
6.Pat S	10.Malvolia B	14. Mackenzie B	
7.Angela S	11.Richard B	30 Sandra C	

Forthcoming Birthdays

August

13th Terri Derbyshire

27th Kath Thorpe

Sept

1st Maureen Foster

19th Pat Storton

20th Eileen Williams

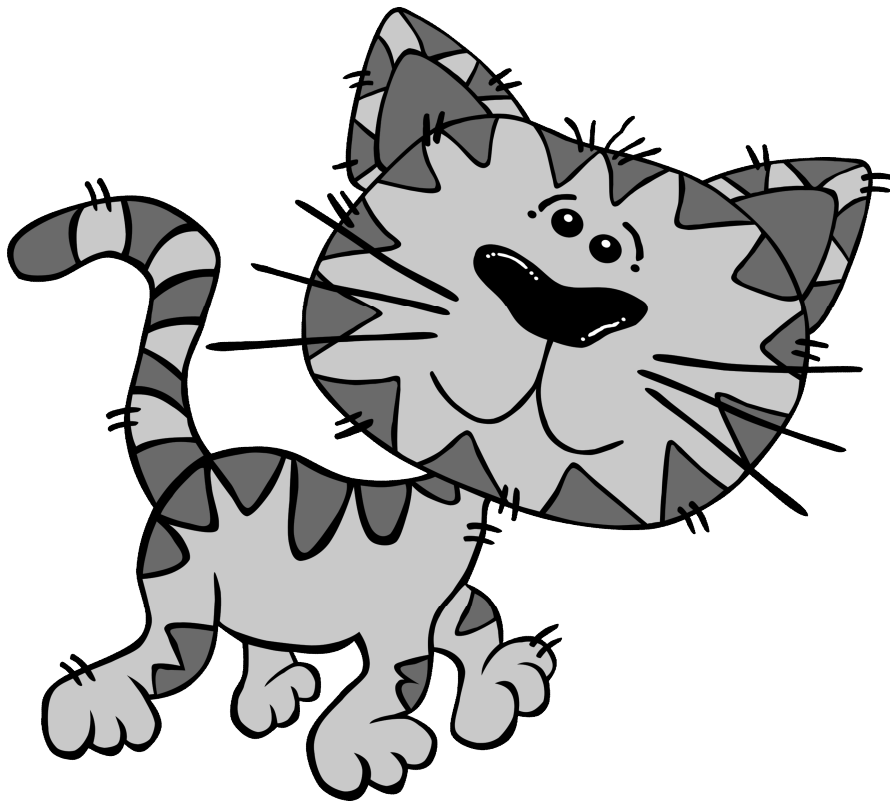
22nd Gareth Slee

New friends

Over the last few months we have been joined by two new families, but at the end of June we had a new visitor join us !!

It was a very warm Sunday and so we had left the front doors open. Our visitor walked in at the beginning of the service and stayed to the end. They walked about up near the Lords table and went with Darren to do the collection.

But it seems it was a one off visit as we have not seen **the cat** again.



Home visit

Brian and Angela very kindly took Kath in their car over to visit Anne Goss who has been living with her daughter. They found her well, and had a nice visit. They took some nice biscuits and her favourite jam over to her. She was very pleased to see them all.



Congratulations

Pete and Sandra

On Your

Diamond Wedding

Anniversary

14 August 2025

Saffron Lane News

Gareth's Haircut

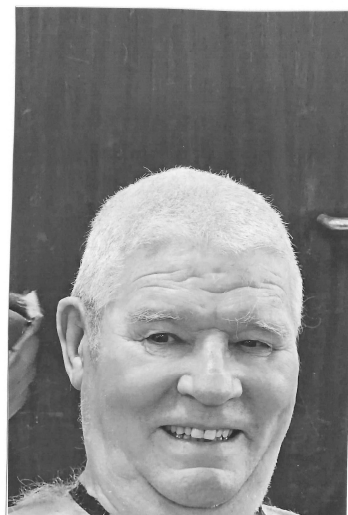
Last month we included a short article about Elizabeth's friend Gareth who had his hair cut for charity. We now include a bit more detail about this momentous event.

Gareth, when he was initially diagnosed with Prostate and Bone Cancer in 2022, underwent some radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Whilst at the hospital, he saw men his age with red raw scalps. A nurse said to him that you cannot get hairpieces for men that age that look right. He then made a conscious decision that if his hair did not fall out, he would grow it and donate it to help these people.

His hair did not fall out and he has been growing it since then. During his growing time, he suffered a lot of ribbing from all his mates which earned him the name of "Dulux" after the Dulux the Dog. He even purchased a dog tag engraved Dulux. It took three years to grow to the required length and so this June at Birstall Methodist Church warm club the "Cut" took place. Sue Bloxham from Saffron Lane URC did a magnificent job, plaiting and cutting the hair.

Friends all sponsored very generously, and a total of £665 has been raised. This is to be split between Loros and Cancer Research.

Thanks to everyone for this wonderful achievement.



Whetstone News

Fundraising Events

What a wonderful morning we had on Saturday 28th June at the home of Pam and Jon Brookes.

The weather was kind to us and soon the house and garden were filled with people buying cakes, entering the raffle, playing the tombola, sampling the bacon and sausage cobs, drinking tea and coffee and generally enjoying a time of friendship and fellowship. Thanks to all who supported us, all who helped and special thanks to Pam and Jon for the kind hospitality. The morning raised an amazing £800.15 for church funds.

On Thursday 17th July, we held a Book and Jigsaw sale. Ploughman's Lunches were also available. It was a lovely atmosphere as people chatted over tea and coffee, bought books and jigsaws, before enjoying a delicious lunch.

Thanks to all who joined us and helped in any way. Particular thanks to Kevin and Jean West for preparing and serving the lunches and to Mrs. Jennifer Ogle for donating the cheese. An incredible £265 was raised towards the Church Hall Roof repairs.



Whetstone News

Future Events for you to Enjoy

We look forward to more food on Thursday 31st July, when we will be having a "Seaside Special " Lunch: cone of chips, fish bites, mushy peas or curry sauce and a cornetto style ice-cream to finish. All welcome!

On Thursday 14th August, we will be marking VJ Day. We will have a sing along of wartime songs, followed by a Bring-and-Share lunch. Please do join us, if you are able.

By popular demand, we will be holding another "Music Hall Memories" evening on Wednesday 20th August at 7pm. This will be followed by a light supper of cheese and biscuits. Come along and enjoy the fun!

Details of the August events are on the posters on the following pages.

Condolences

We send our love and deepest sympathies to the family of Eric Hanson, who sadly passed away recently.

We also offer our condolences to Gareth's wife and all the family, following the loss of her parents.

Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers.



Thursday August 14th Remembering VJ Day

Coffee Morning from
10.00 – 12.00

Followed by a Bring and
Share Lunch

Sing along or
listen to music
from the
forties.



All welcome



Music Hall Memories Wednesday 20th August 7 P.M.

Singalong to Old Time Favourite
Songs

Comedy Variety
Entertainment



Light refreshments



Abbots Road News



In a heartwarming celebration at Abbots Road United Reformed Church, members of the Alpha Seekers Cohort were presented with their certificates which they are proudly clutching on completion of the 13 week Alpha Course. This significant occasion highlights the commitment and time given by the Alpha Seekers as they navigated a transformative spiritual journey together.

The Alpha Course, renowned for its welcoming and inclusive approach, provided an open platform for seekers to explore the basics of the Christian faith, ask questions, and engage in discussions free of judgment. By the end of the 13 week journey, the participants emerged with a newfound understanding and rekindled faith, proving the power of community and shared commitment.

Each member of the cohort brought their unique perspective and experiences, which enriched the learning environment and fostered an inspiring atmosphere. The group have built strong connections that transcended the weekly gatherings, forming friendships grounded in faith and mutual respect that continues to grow.

This milestone in the Alpha Seekers' journey is a testament to the power of faith, fellowship, and pursuit of spiritual growth. May the friendships and insights gained be a constant reminder of this transformative journey together, as they continue to seek, grow, and inspire others in their walk with God.

A REMINDER.

People, places, institutions, situations can put me down.
God, only ever wants to raise me up and love me. Alleluia Amen.

Ruth Burgess

Bless to us, O God,
This vast amazing universe,
The questions of children and strangers,
The tears and laughter of friends.

Ruth Burgess

What I believe can be summed up in five
words: God is love; people matter.

Stewart McGregor.

JOHN 14:27

May the Lord silence every
Negative voice in your mind,
Bring peace to your heart,
Be your strength in every
Struggle and challenge, and
Comfort you on all sides.

DO NOT BE AFRAID

The phrase 'Do not be afraid', is written in the Bible 365 times.
That's a daily reminder from God to live every day being fearless.

Curiano.com

A POWERFUL QUOTE ABOUT GOD IS:

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side;
My greatest concern is to be on God's side,
For God is always right.

According to BrainyQuote.

God has given us two hands, one to receive with,
And the other one to give.

Billy Graham

Life is God's novel. Let him write it.

Isaac Bashevis singer

God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say 'Thank you?'

William Arthur Ward

Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God; trust also in me.

JESUS CHRIST

My trust in God flows out of the experience of his loving me, day in
and day out, Whether the day is stormy or fair, whether I'm sick or
in good health, whether I'm in a state of grace or disgrace. He comes
to me where I live and loves me as I am.

Brennan Manning

MISTAKES

Everyone makes mistakes in life,
But it doesn't mean they have
To pay for them the rest of their life.
Sometimes good people make bad choices,
It doesn't mean they are bad,
It means they are human.

TO MY OLD FRIEND

Thank you for the laughter,
for all the fun we've shared
Thanks for always caring and knowing what to say
Thanks for being a friend
In such a special way

This is to remind you
I am here for you always
We will face life together
We are best friends forever

'HOLIDAY AT HOME'

TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST AND WEDNESDAY 13TH AUGUST

Due to present circumstances our 'Holiday at Home' will be for just 2 days this year. It's a time just to sit and chat if you would like to, there will also be a variety of activities and, of course, a lunch will be provided and an afternoon tea of cakes and tea/coffee. For catering purposes please get in touch with Dorothy or Pam if you are intending to come along.

THE REAL LUXURIES IN LIFE

Time

Health

A quiet mind

Slow mornings

Ability to travel

Rest without guilt

A good night's sleep

Calm and 'boring' days

Meaningful conversations

Home-cooked meals

People you love

People who love you back.

Anonymous

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE BY HELEN STEINER RICE

People need people and friends need friends

And we all need love for a full life depends

Not on vast riches or great acclaim,

Not on success or on worldly fame,

But just in knowing that someone cares

And holds us close in their thoughts and prayers -

For on only the knowledge that we're understood

Makes everyday living feel wonderfully good,

And we rob ourselves of life's greatest need

When we 'lock up our hearts' and fail to heed

The outstretched hand reaching to find

A kindred spirit whose heart and mind

Are lonely and longing to somehow share

Our joys and sorrows and to make us aware

That life's completeness and richness depends

On the things we share with our loved ones.

Abbots Road News

As always there is a lot we need to pray for:

Pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine

Pray for peace in the Middle East and an end to genocide.

Pray for peace in Yemen.

Pray that aid agencies will be able to get supplies and help to where it is urgently needed.

For refugees and Asylum Seekers

For those who are suffering through poverty, famine, lack of clean water.

For those in our own country who are forced to use food banks in order to feed their family.

For those who are homeless and living on the streets.

For those who are disabled and worried about what the future may bring.

For those suffering from depression and can see no hope.

For those who are suffering through addiction and for their families.

For those working in the N.H.S. and our emergency services

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, especially at this time, Eric's family and friends.

For Brian, Dorothy and all of their family.

For Roy and family

For Anne and John

For Willow and her family

For Anne and Rob.

For Kate

For Charlotte as she begins a new part of her life journey.

For the review of SELA and the results.

For our Ministry Team - Martin and Eileen

For the Elders serving in each of our churches.

For the mission of our SELA churches.

For those who have just begun their faith journey and for those who have been on their faith journey for a long time but are now struggling.

For 'Talking Faith'.

YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH

I bought a belt made of watches - it's a waist of time.

I started a band called 1023MB - we haven't got a gig yet.

What do you call a well-balanced horse?

Stable

I used to be a banker but I lost interest.

What do you call a sleep-walking nun?

A roamin' Catholic.

What do you call a fat psychic?

A four chin teller.

My girlfriend accused me of cheating. I told her she was starting to sound like my wife.

What do you get when you throw a piano down a mine shaft?

A flat miner.

If you give an alligator a GPS does that make it a navigator.

What do you call a singing laptop?

A Dell.

I've been told I'm condescending. (That means talking down to people.)

What do you call a bee that can't make up it's mind?

A Maybe.

I went bobsleighing the other day, and I managed to kill 250 bobs.

Cont.....

Why go to the paint store when you're on a diet?

You can get thinner there.

Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef?

He'll dessert you.

What do you call the cat that was caught by the police?

A purrpatrator.

You may think it's romantic to carve our names on this tree, but I have to ask, why did you bring a knife on our first date?

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

Same middle name.

A father was washing his car with his son and the son asked, "Dad, can't you just use a sponge?"

My dad used to always say, "You should fight fire with fire!" Which is probably why he got thrown out of the Fire Brigade.

This grasshopper walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Hey, I have a drink named after you!" The grasshopper looked confused and says, "You have a drink called Irving?"

When does a joke become a dad joke? When it's apparent.

Guy 1: I slept like a baby last night!

Guy 2: Oh, really?

Guy 1: Yeah! I woke up every 2 hours crying!

What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast? A synonym roll.

Did you hear about the kidnapping in the park? They woke him up.

Volunteers

As members of a church and /or other organisations we are often asked to volunteer to help out with something

Here are a few thoughts about Volunteers

Those who can - do
Those who can do more Volunteer

Volunteers are
love in motion

Volunteers do not necessarily
have the time, they just have
the heart. - Elizabeth Andrew

Volunteers do not get paid
Not because their worthless
But because they are "PRICELESS"

Theme Songs for Bible Characters

Noah	"Raindrops Keep Falling in my Head"
Adam & Eve	"Strangers in Paradise"
Lazarus	"The Second Time Around"
Moses	"The Wanderer"
Samson	"Hair"
Daniel	"The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
The Three Kings	"When you Wish Upon a Star"
Salome	"I Could Have Danced All Night"
Esau	"Born To Be Wild"
Job	"I've Got A Right To Sing The Blues"
Joshua	"Good Vibrations"

Through a Child's Eye

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen " the boy responded

His cousin was amazed that he knew the answer so quickly and asked him "How do you know that ?"

"Easy" the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up. Like the Bishop said :-

4 better 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer"

Both taken from "A Bucket of Suprises" J John & Mark Stibbe Monarch Books

Lectionary Readings

3 August

Ecclesiastes 1 v 2 & 12 - 14 & 2 v 18 - 23

Psalms 49 v 1 - 12

Colossians 3 v 1 - 11

Luke 12 v 13 - 21

10 August

Genesis 15 v 1 - 6

Psalms 33 v 12 - 22

Hebrews 11 v 1 - 3 & 8 - 16

Luke 12 v 32 - 40

17 August

Jeremiah 23 v 23 - 29

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11 v 29 - 12 v 2

Luke 12 v 49 - 56

24 August

Isaiah 58 v 9b - 14

Psalms 103 v 1 - 8

Hebrews 12 v 18 - 29

Luke 13 v 10 - 17

31 August

Proverbs 25 v 6 - 7 or Sirach 10 v 12 - 18

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13 v 1 - 8 & 15 - 16

Luke 14 v 1 & 7 - 14